

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

D-536

1005365704

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

312 Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

## OWNERSHIP

## STATUS

## PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☐ PUBLIC☒ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ BUILDING(S)☒ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE**PUBLIC ACQUISITION****ACCESSIBLE**☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Levi B. Phillips

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

312 Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21613

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #: RSM 61

Folio #: 269

STREET &amp; NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland 21613

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

D-536

**CONDITION****CHECK ONE****CHECK ONE**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This large assymetrical brick house with wood trim was built in the early 20th century. It reflects the Italian Renaissance influence in its semicircular veranda, great oak hall, elaborately carved stairway and multicolored windows. The entrance and portico, and other architectural details, are derived from Georgian architecture but are generally larger and bolder in scale. The hip roof is made of slate, and below the projecting eaves are large modillions. Under a gable on the front of the house is a Palladian window with lead tracery. The porch across the front, which curves around the sides of the house, is supported by Doric columns.

The interior of the house is wainscoted with two or three different kinds of wood. Leaded windows and mullioned ~~stained~~ glass windows add to the richness of the interior. There are eight fireplaces in the 22 room house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC      | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499         | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                  | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                     | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION                     | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT        | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                      | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                     |   |  |

## SPECIFIC DATES

1909-1912

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Leon W. Crawford

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built by Captain Levi Phillips, who was the founder of Phillips Packing Company. It is now owned by his son, Levi Phillips. Completed in 1912, the architect was Leon W. Crawford of Wilmington. The style of the house combines the Italian Renaissance influence with Georgian Colonial details. It is one of the larger early 20th century homes in Cambridge.

The original Zion Church stood on this site from 1802 until 1846. It was later moved across the street and used as a carriage shop. The Zion Church Cemetery, however, remained on this lot until this house was constructed.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dorchester News, March 17, 1976, Page 8, "Fifty Years Ago Today"  
 Country Homes Magazine, July-August, 1929  
 Mr. and Mrs. Levi Phillips, 312 Mill Street, Cambridge, Maryland  
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

4/5/76

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cambridge

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

312 Mill Street

One of the largest residences on Mill Street, this house was completed in 1912 by "Captain" Levi B. Phillips, one of the founders of the Phillips Packing Company in 1902. That business eventually grew into one of the largest fruit and vegetable canners in the eastern United States, with plants located all over the Eastern Shore. The company branched out into other areas: hardware, can production, trucking and oil. It was a major factor in Cambridge's economic growth in the early twentieth century. During World War I, Phillips Packing canned a large share of the field rations for the American troops in France. And at one time during the second World War the company employed one quarter of the city's population of eight thousand. The packing company has been sold, but the hardware and oil companies remain.

Levi B. Phillips, referred to sometimes as "Captain" from his days with an oyster boat, was born in 1868 in Dorchester County, the older brother of Albanus Phillips (see 314 Mill Street). In the 1890's, he engaged in the oystering business, and later opened his own oyster packing plant. In 1902, he merged his outfit with those of brother Albanus and W. Grason Winterbottom (see 115 Mill Street) to form the Phillips Packing Company. Levi Phillips also served as president of the National Bank of Cambridge. On his death in 1945, the house passed on to his son, Levi B. Phillips, Jr., the present owner.

The house is one of the largest early twentieth century houses in Cambridge. Its style is eclectic, combining influences from the Italian Renaissance with Georgian details. The architect was Leon W. Crawford of Wilmington. The house is on the original site of Zion Methodist Church. The church occupied the site from 1802 until 1846. The cemetery remained on the lot until 1891 when the land was purchased by William H. Barton, Jr. (see 615 Locust Street).

Barton died in 1909 and Phillips purchased the land from the estate.

#### References:

Include the sources already listed that were submitted by Cathy Moore. Add the following.  
Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland  
Court Records. Land Records.

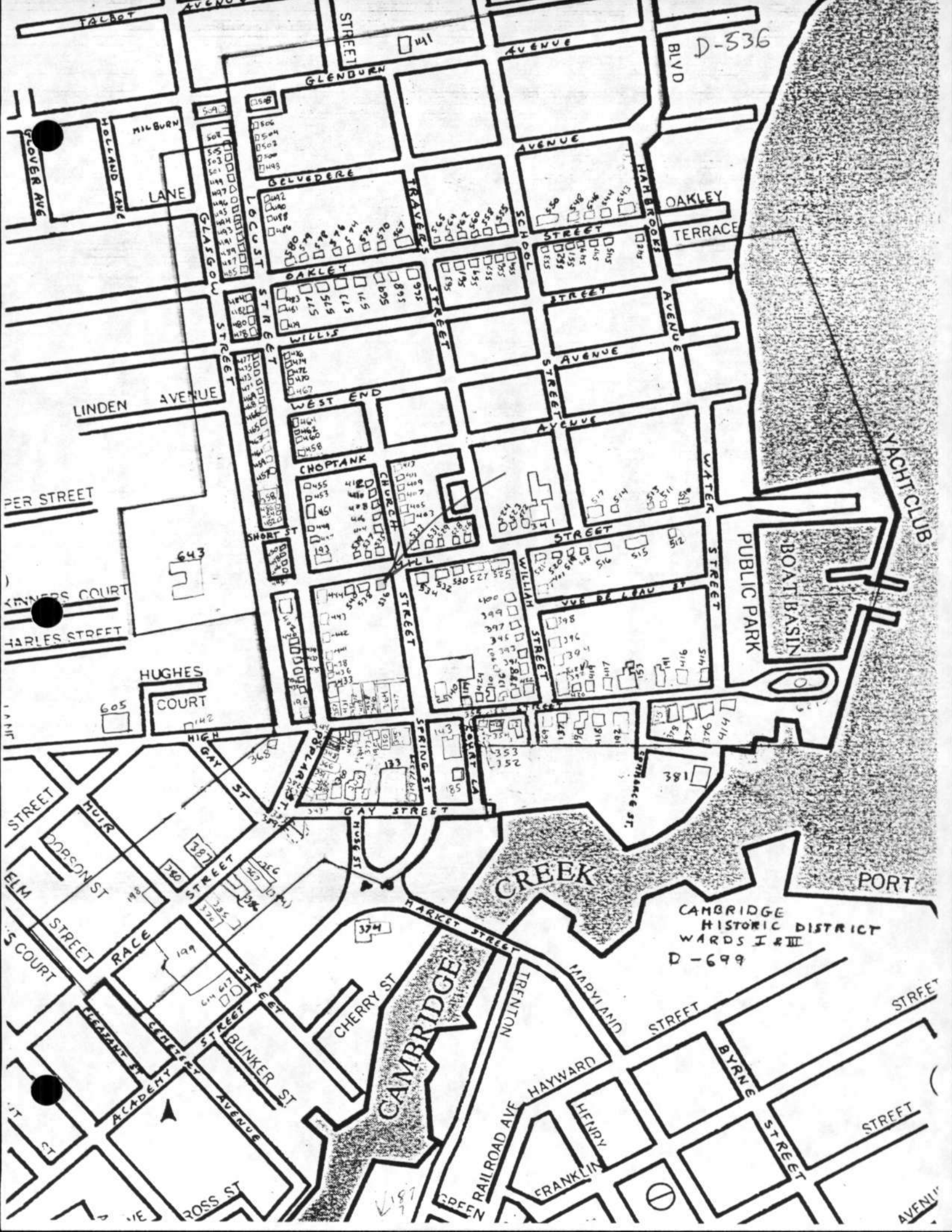
Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.  
Assessment Records.

Clark, Charles B., ed. The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1950, vol. III, pp. 18-19.

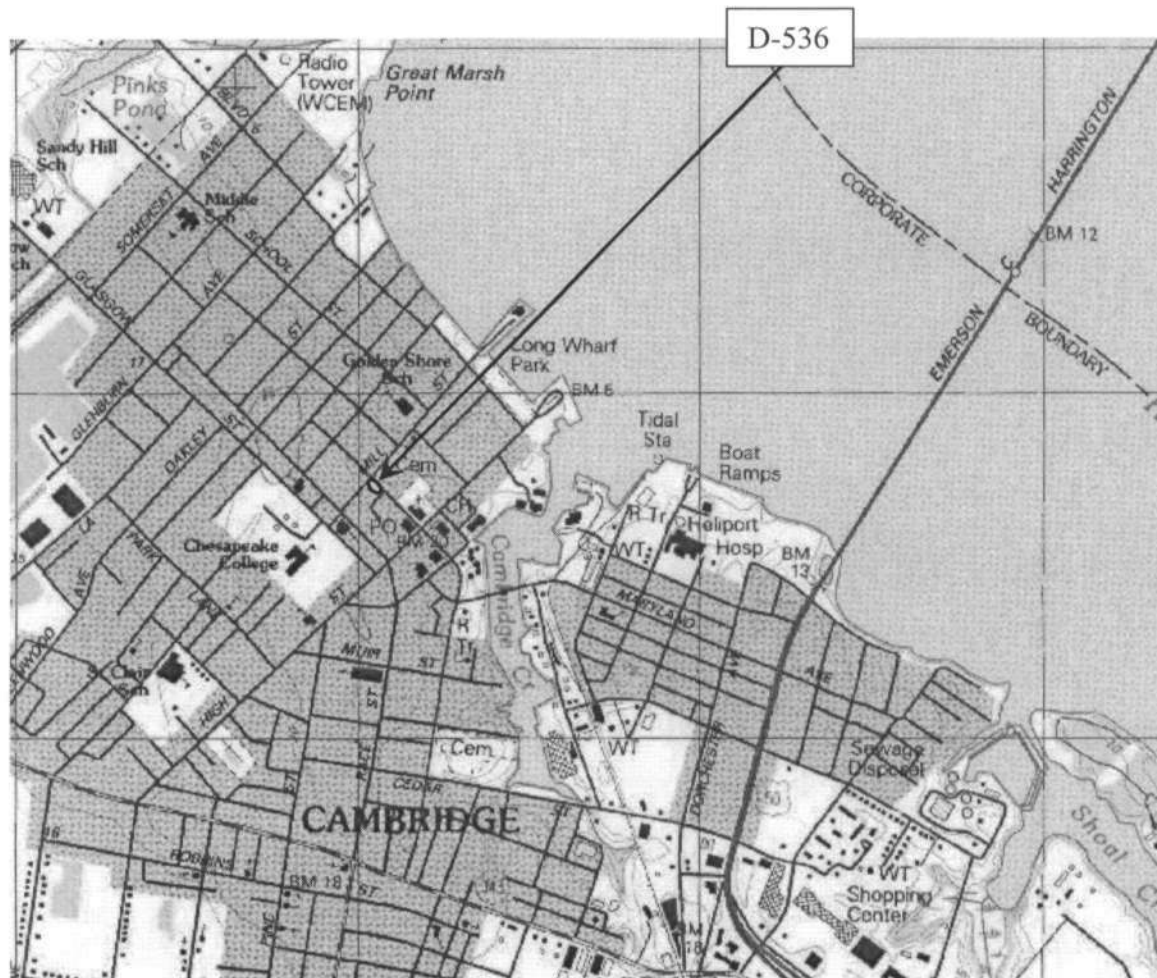
Jones, Elias. History of Dorchester County, Maryland. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, Co. Press, 1902, pp. 74.

Lake, Griffing and Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties, Md. Philadelphia: H.J. Toudy, 1877.





D-536  
312 Mill St.  
Cambridge  
Cambridge Quad.  
Dorchester Co.







C. W. MOORE + 1976 - 312 MILL ST., CAMBRIDGE, MD. - WEST FACADE -

D-536

46%